

nor literature, unless we choose to class under the latter head the laws and circulars of the Government, which, it must be confessed, are rather dull reading for the masses.

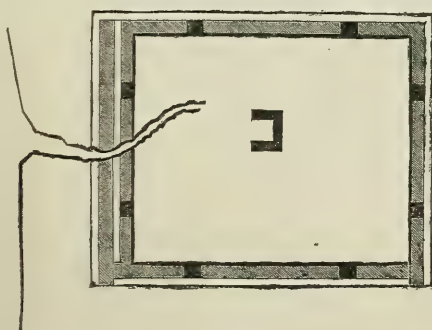
In every way then I conclude that the encouragement of the style in which our munshis delight, is most strongly to be deprecated. It is a style of artificial and unnatural origin; it is incapable of development into an independent national language; it robs the Hindus of their most glorious literary inheritance; it is practically inconvenient, being unfamiliar even to the educated classes, unless they have been specially trained in it; and it perpetuates ignorance by blotting out the records of earlier civilization, and, having no literature of its own, offers none in its place. The law has at all times and in all countries been somewhat pedantic in its utterances, and if it is inevitable, let it remain so; but surely it is an unheard-of thing that legal phraseology should be constituted the type of polite literature.

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*Description of the Chandrarekhágurh near Sashtance, Pergunnah Nyegur, Zillah Midnapore.—By W. J. HERSCHEL, Esq., B. C. S.*

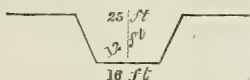
[Received 2nd April, 1866.]

This very remarkable fort lies in the least known part of the district of Midnapore, in the south-west corner of it. I came upon it accidentally while returning from a tour into Morbhunj.



It lies near the boundary of the district in the midst of what, twenty years ago, was uninterrupted jungle, but what is now fast breaking up into cultivation. It is a nearly square patch of thick tangled

jungle lying pretty nearly north and south. Its longest line is east and west. It measures 1,050 yards in this direction, and from north to south 780 yards; so that the circumference is just two miles. It is built with unusual precision and completeness, differing in this from all the other forts I have seen in this district. A perfectly straight ditch on each side with a high bund inside; it has been almost filled up on the northern side and somewhat less so on the western, by the drainage of the country, which at this spot flows S. S. E. The western end of the ditch on the south side has been affected in the same way, the drainage turning southwards round the corner; the northern end of the eastern ditch has not suffered so, because the drainage sets *away from* that corner, and the ditch is not continuous round the corner. At this place, therefore, the eastern ditch is seen in perfection, and a very



surprising work it is. It is cut through solid rock, except the upper two or three feet, and the sides are carefully sloped with the chisel. The rock is the com-

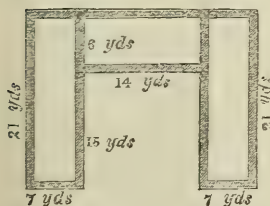
mon Midnapore laterite, not a hard stone to cut, and not a very good one to wear. It is liable to frequent clefs, and is seldom continuous in very large blocks. Consequently the sides of the ditch have fallen in a good deal, but there is ample to shew that when first finished, this ditch was a thoroughly workmanlike production. The soil was removed at the lips of it, and the rock carried up by two or three layers of stone. It is carried all down the eastern face, and turns the corner with almost modern precision, and continues along the southern face till it is silted up at the western end. From the character of the whole fort I am satisfied that, if cleared, the ditch would be found equally perfect all round; on those two faces it is scarcely filled up at all, though overhung with jungle and difficult to get along in consequence.

The bund on this eastern face is about 12 feet high and 50 broad. Within it is another equally fine and well-preserved ditch cut in the same way through the solid rock. This ditch does not go round the other three sides, nor can I say certainly that it goes all up the eastern side, but the natives say it does, and I went along some 100 yards of it, till it got so bearish-looking that the villagers would not go further with me.

About 15 yards within the edge of the second ditch rises the wall of the Fort which, as far as I could follow it, is continuous the whole way round. It was built of excellently chiselled stones of ordinary size, about four or five feet thick, and about 15 feet high, though there is not that height standing anywhere that I saw; 12 or 13 feet I measured. The care bestowed on this wall is most unusual. There is no attempt at extravagant massiness, but what was done was done thoroughly well. At different places are projecting bastions, simple square rooms of 20 feet each way, standing out from the line. They are quite square and clean at the angles. The villagers said there were two such on each side. I think there was also one at each corner.

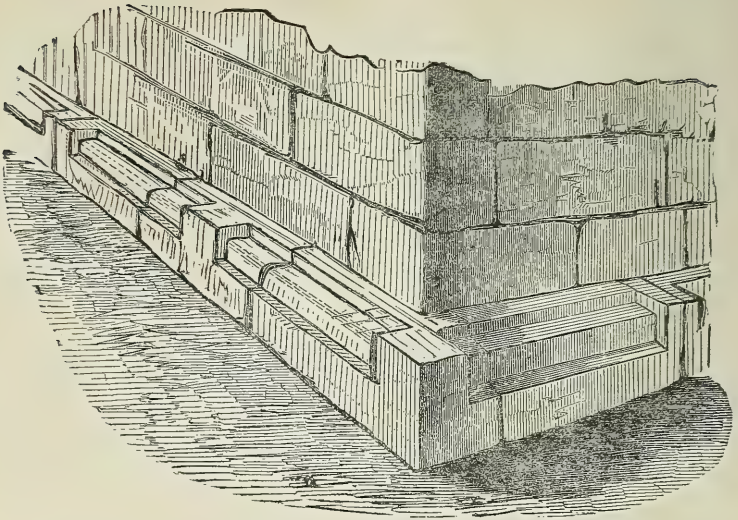
The wall is very much in ruins now, but there is plenty left to shew what a handsome thing it must have been. On the south side is a huge tower in ruins, but that is the work of the Trigonometrical Survey, I believe. It is quite out of character with the rest, certainly, by its very size.

The interior of the Fort presents nothing whatever to suggest habitation, except the one extraordinary building in the centre. In its simplicity, neatness and thoroughness, it harmonizes exactly with the exterior defences. I give a plan of it in the margin. It has but three



rooms, of the size shewn in the plan. The walls are of the same nicely cut laterite, about 3 feet thick, and 11 feet high from the true ground level to the top of the cornicing. It is not in very good preservation above the 8th foot from the ground, but so far almost perfect. The cornicing is

of the same simple character as the whole Fort, (of the shape shewn in the woodcut on page 184) and runs all round the whole of the three rooms. The upper half of the cornice is like the lower, reversed, but at regular intervals there are little square bosses as at the basement of the wall, which is ornamented in the same simple style, thus:—



These simple rectangular mouldings were the only ornaments or carvings I could detect on a very careful search throughout the whole fort. There is not a curved line in any stone in the whole work. The wall certainly ran up to the height which I have shewn in the sketch of the cornice. I cannot find any stone higher than that, and from the fact that three of the few stones left of that tier have a ledge in

them (as shewn in the margin) on the inner side of the wall, I suppose that the timbers of the roof rested on this tier. The curious part about the building is, that there is not, and never was, any door whatever. I examined the walls everywhere, and by the lines of the stones it is quite clear that it was deliberately intended that there should be no entrance into these rooms, whatever there might have been to the roof. The want of debris shews that there was no upper story. Nor is there any commu-

nication whatever between the three rooms. An entrance has been forced of course, since the place became a ruin, but the position of the stones at the place is still at this present moment such as to shew

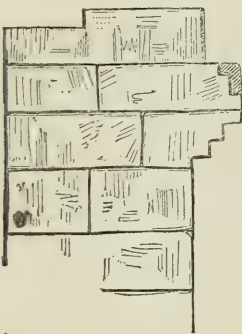


PLATE XXI.

